

Patent  
Attorney Docket No.: AUS920010179US1  
(IBM/0006)

### AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following is a replacement claim set:

1. (currently amended) A method for execution by one or more processors for pricing access to e-content comprising:
  - transmitting the e-content selected from e-books, e-videos, e-movies, e-documents, e-television and combinations thereof over a network to a computer for listening, viewing or combinations thereof along with a usage tracker for performing a step of tracking one or more usage characteristics;
  - tracking one or more usage characteristics of an individual's access to e-content, wherein the one or more usage characteristics are selected from the group consisting of quantity of e-content accessed, quantity of time spent accessing the e-content, nature of the e-content, and combinations thereof;
  - accepting return of the e-content from the computer along with the one or more usage characteristics; and
  - charging the individual a price that is determined as a predetermined function of the one or more usage characteristics.
2. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
  - establishing a usage profile for the individual;
  - storing in the usage profile the one or more usage characteristics tracked during a first session; and
  - updating the usage profile to reflect the one or more usage characteristics tracked during a subsequent session.
3. (original) The method of claim 2, wherein the step of updating the usage profile includes accumulating the one or more usage characteristics over a plurality of sessions.

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4. (original) The method of claim 3, wherein the price is determined as a predetermined function of the one or more usage characteristics of the current session, the one or more accumulated usage characteristics, or a combination thereof.
5. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the predetermined function is a non-linear function.
6. (cancelled)
7. (currently amended) The method of claim [[6]] 1, wherein the step of accepting return includes receiving the entire e-content.
8. (currently amended) The method of claim [[6]] 1, wherein the step of accepting return includes deleting the e-content from the individual's computer.
9. (currently amended) The method of claim [[6]] 1, further comprising: ~~wherein the step of accepting return includes~~  
determining whether any copies of the transmitted e-content were made.
10. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
~~transmitting the e-content to a computer along with a usage tracker for performing the step of tracking one or more usage characteristics; and~~  
periodically receiving messages from the usage tracker indicating a change in the one or more usage characteristics.
11. (cancelled)
12. (currently amended) A computer system for pricing access to e-content comprising:

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transmitting means for transmitting the e-content selected from e-books, e-videos, e-movies, e-documents, e-television and combinations thereof over a network to a computer along with a usage tracker for performing a step of tracking one or more usage characteristics;

tracking means for tracking one or more usage characteristics of an individual's access to e-content, wherein the one or more usage characteristics are selected from the group consisting of quantity of e-content accessed, quantity of time spent accessing the e-content, nature of the e-content, and combinations thereof;

accepting means for accepting return of the e-content from the computer along with the one or more usage characteristics; and

charging means for charging the individual a price that is determined as a predetermined function of the one or more usage characteristics.

13. (original) The system of claim 12, further comprising:
- establishing means for establishing a usage profile for the individual;
  - storing means for storing in the usage profile the one or more usage characteristics tracked during a first session; and
  - updating means for updating the usage profile to reflect the one or more usage characteristics tracked during a subsequent session.
14. (original) The system of claim 13, wherein the updating means includes accumulating means for accumulating the one or more usage characteristics over a plurality of sessions.
15. (original) The system of claim 14, wherein the price is determined as a predetermined function of the one or more usage characteristics of the current session, the one or more accumulated usage characteristics, or a combination thereof.
16. (original) The system of claim 12, wherein the predetermined function is a non-linear function.
17. (cancelled)

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18. (currently amended) The system of claim ~~[[17]]~~ 12, wherein the accepting means includes receiving means for receiving the entire e-content.
19. (currently amended) The system of claim ~~[[17]]~~ 12, wherein the accepting means includes deleting means for deleting the e-content from the individual's computer.
20. (currently amended) The system of claim ~~[[17]]~~ 12, further comprising: ~~wherein the accepting means includes~~  
determining means for determining whether any copies of the transmitted e-content were made.
21. (currently amended) The system of claim 12, further comprising:  
~~transmitting means for transmitting the e-content to a computer along with a usage tracker;~~  
~~having tracking means for tracking one or more usage characteristics; and~~  
receiving means for receiving messages from the usage tracker indicating a change in the one or more usage characteristics.
22. (currently amended) A computer program product for execution using one or more processors including instructions embodied on a computer readable medium, the instructions comprising:  
transmitting instructions for transmitting the e-content selected from e-books, e-videos, e-movies, e-documents, e-television and combinations thereof over a network to a computer along with a usage tracker for performing a step of tracking one or more usage characteristics;  
tracking instructions for tracking one or more usage characteristics of an individual's access to e-content, wherein the one or more usage characteristics are selected from the group consisting of quantity of e-content accessed, quantity of time spent accessing the e-content, nature of the e-content, and combinations thereof;  
accepting instructions for accepting return of the e-content from the computer along with the one or more usage characteristics; and

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charging instructions for charging the individual a price that is determined as a predetermined function of the one or more usage characteristics.

23. (original) The computer program product of claim 22, further comprising:  
    establishing instructions for establishing a usage profile for the individual;  
    storing instructions for storing in the usage profile the one or more usage characteristics tracked during a first session; and  
    updating instructions for updating the usage profile to reflect the one or more usage characteristics tracked during a subsequent session.
24. (original) The computer program product of claim 23, wherein the updating instructions include accumulating instructions for accumulating the one or more usage characteristics over a plurality of sessions.
25. (original) The computer program product of claim 24, wherein the price is determined as a predetermined function of the one or more usage characteristics of the current session, the one or more accumulated usage characteristics, or a combination thereof.
26. (currently amended) The computer program product of claim 22, wherein the predetermined function is a non-linear function.
27. (cancelled)
28. (currently amended) The computer program product of claim ~~[[27]]~~ 22, wherein the accepting instructions include receiving instructions for receiving the entire e-content.
29. (currently amended) The computer program product of claim ~~[[27]]~~ 22, further comprising:  
~~wherein the accepting instructions includes~~  
    deleting instructions for deleting the e-content from the individual's computer.

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30. (currently amended) The computer program product of claim [[27]] 22, wherein the accepting instructions include determining instructions for determining whether any copies of the transmitted e-content were made.

31. (cancelled)

32. (original) A computer implemented method for providing access to e-content on a server, comprising:

transmitting e-content from the server to a client computing device along with an embedded usage tracking program;

receiving a usage report from the usage tracking program including one or more characteristic of the client's access to the e-content;

determining whether the client's access to the e-content exceeds an expiration setpoint; and

upon a determination of expiration, ~~initiating renewal of the e-content expiration setpoint~~  
deleting the e-content from the client computing device.

33. (cancelled)